

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052675
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052675

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 3636 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NEW DELHI
DATED FEB 24:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03636

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, IN, BE
SUBJECT: INDIAN CANDIDATE FOR UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

REF; STATE 39627

1. DURING HIS 1973-77 TOUR AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, EMBASSY BRUSSELS DID NOT HAVE OCCASION TO LOOK DEEPLY INTO THE CHARACTER AND ULTIMATE MOTIVATIONS OF K.B. LALL. THE ADVERSE JUDGMENT CITED IN REFTTEL MAY BE ACCURATE, BUT WE HAVE NO CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE OTHER THAN TO AGREE THAT THE FACE HE TURNS TO THE WORLD IS AMIABLE, CIVILIZED AND INTELLIGENT. THE DEALINGS OF THIS EMBASSY'S OFFICERS WITH LALL WERE ESSENTIALLY COLLEGIAL. IN SUCH A RELATIONSHIP HE WAS NOT-AND HAD NO NEED TO BE-DEVIOUS OR UNSCRUPULOUS.

2. LALL DID SHOW HIS HAND IN ONE SIGNIFICANT RESPECT.
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HE WAS ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH SOME WELL-KNOWN INDIAN ADVERSARIES OF THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT HE REPRESENTED. SOME, PASSING THROUGH BRUSSELS, WERE HIS HOUSE GUESTS. HE DID NOT PERSONALLY PROMOTE THEIR VIEWS BUT MADE NO EFFORT TO KEEP HIS ANTI-INDIRA FRIENDS QUIET OR OUT OF SIGHT. EMBOFFS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HE AGREED WITH THEM. BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE DID NOT WEAR THE ASPECT OF

A MAN AFRAID. CHAMBERS UNQTE VANCE

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